SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY CHILDREN'S NETWORK

Policy Council Minutes March 27, 2002

Members/Representatives Present:

- Susan Melanson, Children's Network
- Bruce Davis, 3rd District Board of Supervisors Representative
- Rudy Lopez, Director, Department of Behavioral Health
- Kent Paxton, Children's Network Officer
- Carol Anselmi, HSS Administration
- Cathy Cimbalo, Director, Department of Children's Services
- Mary Lynn Clark, Director, Inland Regional Center
- Jeff Broyde, Public Defender's Office
- Karen Bell, DA Juvenile Division
- Clark Morrow, SBSD
- Mel Rinewalt, Probation Department
- Ray Wingerd, Chief of Probation Department
- Gary Paytas, Probation Department
- Paula Roby, Department of Behavioral Health
- Joyce Lewis, Department of Behavioral Health
- Julian Weaver, San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools
- Eric Fryman, Department of Public Health
- Judy Steppins, San Bernardino County Library LITE Program
- Bruce Smith, Department of Public Health
- Bonnie Konowitch, Children's Network
- Don Larkin, Executive Director, Children and Families Commission
- Cory Nelsen, Child Support Services
- Claudia Spencer, Department of Public Health
- Coley Bowman, Department of Children's Services ARD
- Melissa Atkeson, Department of Children's Services ARD
- Judy Cline, Department of Children's Services ARD
- Janet Cullen, Department of Children's Services ARD
- Rita Downs, Department of Behavioral Health
- Judge Garza, Juvenile Court Chairperson
- Bonnie O'Connor, Executive Director, Children's Fund
- Thomas Prendergast, Department of Public Health
- Claudia Spencer, Department of Public Health
- Tammy Williams, Children's Network

Children's Network Policy Council March 27, 2002

The meeting of the Children's Policy Council was called to order at 12:05 p.m. and convened by Carol Anselmi in the Citrus Room, Fifth Floor, County Government Center. Judge Garza arrived later and chaired the remainder of the meeting.

1.0 Welcome and Introductions

Carol Anselmi welcomed those present including the guests from Department of Children's Services; ARD (Administrative Resources Division) and self-introductions were made.

2.0 Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Cathy Cimbalo to approve the agenda as written. Mary Lynn Clark seconded the motion.

3.0 Approval of February 27, 2002 Minutes

No changes or corrections were made to the minutes. Claudia Spencer made a motion to approve the minutes of February 27, 2002. Bonnie O'Connor seconded the motion.

4.0 Information Items

4.1 Children's Fund Report

Bonnie O'Connor reported the following activities:

- Tuesday, April 2nd is the kickoff for the 10th Annual Rubber Duck Race at 11:30 a.m. at the County Government Center.
- A flyer was passed out on the "Treads for Threads" Poker Run on Sunday, May 19th come ride your Harley-Davidson Motorcycle.
- The Children's Fund Board received proposals from CBOs for funding of some exciting programs. An RFP was issued with 20 agencies responding. The final decision was to allot \$5,000 per district for a total of \$25,000. The agencies who were awarded the \$5,000 are A Better Way 1st District; Pomona Inland Valley Churches 2nd District; Trinity 3rd District; El Shiba Health Clinic 5th District; and the YWCA 4th District.

• Work is continuing on the program for homeless children to attend school through Dr. Fischer's efforts. The funding goes through June 2002. It is felt the program is very good and Children's Fund's Board would like to see the program replicated throughout the county with Public Health Nurses staffed at each site.

4.2 CSOC Update

Kent Paxton referred everyone to the handout in their packet on the CSOC Update - Board Agenda item on the Early Learning Opportunities Grant (ELO). This county received 1 million dollars in funding from the Federal Government to identify emotional and mental health conditions in preschool children. Thanks to Rudy Lopez, VaNessa Vollmer, Ph.D. will be funded full-time to take the leadership of this grant. Several County departments will also be working on this grant. The purpose is to intervene with young children and to avoid later placements in Juvenile Hall or high-level group homes. Approval for the grant will go before the Board of Supervisors on April 2, 2002 and the RFP will go before them on April 16, 2002 for procurement of technical assistance. HSS will perform the evaluation for this grant.

On April 19, 2002 interviews were conducted for the MDT/Family Preservation Council Coordinator position. A social services practitioner will fill this position from Department of Children's Services and be outstation at Children's Network. Background checks are being conducted and the position will be filled in the near future.

Cathy Cimbalo, Director of Children's Services (DCS) reported DCS has a centralized placement unit in a pilot stage. Three social workers and a supervising social service practitioner staff this unit. This unit is responsible for locating non-emergency placements to take the burden off of the social workers. The unit locates placements of Level 12 and below, with higher level placements remaining with IPC committee.

Rudy Lopez, Director of Behavioral Health reported that in order to expand services for children they are working on a RFP for vendors. The EPSDT Medi-Cal entitlement program is being discussed for the foster care expansion program. Rudy also mentioned he is in the process of filling Paula Roby's position (Program Manager II) and will be making a decision very soon between two candidates.

Work is also moving forward on the Therapeutic Behavioral Services (TBS) for high-risk children on Medi-Cal. Social Worker will "shadow" children to help them adjust and keep them out of the State Hospitals. The TBS will be coordinating with outside services, because they can not stand-alone in this effort.

4.3 Child Care Planning Council Update

Kent Paxton announced that Donna Beveridge, ChildCare Coordinator, is leaving on April 5^{th.} She will be the School Readiness Coordinator at the Children and Families Commission for San Bernardino. The ChildCare Coordinator position was advertised and closes on April 5th. Kent encouraged anyone interested to apply.

4.4 County Schools Partnership

Kent Paxton and Julian Weaver sent out a letter inviting <u>agencies and</u> program administrators and schools to attend a meeting on April 12th to address some of the problems and duplications of services and programs near schools. This <u>subcommittee will focus on issues such as the loss of healthy start funds and how partnerships can be formed to fill in <u>some needs</u>. A report will be brought back to Policy Council from this subcommittee.</u>

5.0 Discussion/Action Items

5.1 Safe Summer Resolution: Discussion and action is requested to forward a Resolution to the Board of Supervisors declaring May 1, 2002 through September 2, 2,002, Safe Kids Summer in the County of San Bernardino

Susan Melanson reported that the April Child Abuse Prevention Month campaign kick-off took place on March 26th. The Board of Supervisors passed a resolution at their meeting, and they then adjourned to the flag raising ceremony.

The Safe Kids Summer 2002 campaign will focus on drowning prevention and children left unattended in vehicles. Joan Williams and Susan are cochairing a Drowning Prevention Subcommittee.

Susan referred everyone to the draft resolution to the Board of Supervisors announcing the Safe Summer Resolution to cover May 1, 2002 through September 2, 2002 in your packet to review. A motion was made by Rudy Lopez and seconded by Julian Weaver to take the Safe Summer Resolution to the Board of Supervisors on April 30, 2002. The members passed the motion.

5.2 Promoting Safe and Stable Families RFP: Discussion and action requested to forward the Promoting Safe and Stable Families RFP to the Board of Supervisors for approval.

Kent Paxton referred to the RFP for Promoting Safe and Stable Families information in your packet. Cathy Cimbalo spoke about the current cycle of three-year contracts is ending soon, with the next contract cycle to begin in October 2002. Department of Children's Services will be submitting a plan to the state for the next cycle. An RFP will be submitted to the Board of Supervisors with 2 major goals; safety of children and stability of permanence. President Bush has allotted a significant boost from the Federal Government for child abuse and prevention programs. The RFP will be focused on child abuse prevention services to be provided at local neighborhood Family Resource Centers throughout the county. The funding will be applicable to new Family Resource Centers as well as to augment services that are already existing in similar type centers.

This time of year there is often augmentation funding available to the Promoting Safe and Stable Families Services Contracts; this year \$112,104 is available. Seven of the current eleven contractors applied for the funds, with four agencies declining. "These funds will be distributed based on agency need, geographic equity, and their use for Preservation, Support, Time-Limited Reunification and Adoptions Promotion and Support" - (taken from handout given by Cathy Cimbalo's staff).

Cathy Cimbalo asked for a motion requesting Policy Council's approval for Safe and Stable Families RFP. The motion was made by Claudia Spencer and seconded by Mary Lynn Clark.

Kent Paxton mentioned that the Board of Supervisors approved the CAPIT plan. Copies are available of the plan.

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6.0 Other

Kent talked about "The Eleventh Commandment" video with Collin Raye. It is a very powerful three-minute video about child abuse. This video was shown at the Board of Supervisors and has been shown at several meetings throughout the County. A flyer was passed out with ordering information: contact Steve Cox - Scott Dean Management; 612 Humboldt St.; Reno, NV 89509; phone number 775-322-9426; fax number 775-322-0864; e-mail Steve@Scott.Dean.com.

Susan Melanson spoke about the plan to distribute over 200,000 pieces of child abuse prevention materials for child abuse prevention month. Thanks to Julian Weaver and County Schools for providing copies of the fliers for school distribution. Other distribution sites are: hospitals, county libraries, Housing Authority sites, Public Health offices, DCS offices, DBH offices, Probation and Youth Justice Center, community-based organizations, city programs, and various other agencies and events throughout the county.

Susan also reported the Shine the Light Breakfast is next Thursday, April 4, 2002 at 8:00 a.m. at the Radisson Hotel in San Bernardino. Over 400 tickets were sold at that time. The price is \$10 a ticket.

Susan reported some other Child Abuse Prevention activities in April are the Family Celebration Picnics and the Children's Fund Duck Race. She encouraged all to come out and show your support.

It was brought to the attention of the group that there is a CAO meeting that conflicts with the next regularly scheduled Policy Council meeting on April 24. In light of the conflict, members voted to go dark for April; the next meeting will be May 22, 2002. Kent mentioned that the Group Home Needs Assessment discussion could be postponed until May. The Policy Council Executive Committee can approve the CAPIT contracts if needed before we meet again in May, 2002.

7.0 Public Comment

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8.0 Adjournment

Dark in April, 2002

Next regularly scheduled meeting: May 22, 2002

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Williams
Policy Council Recording Secretary